

REMARKS

Applicants note that the Office has removed its objection to claims 18-29 and 31-34 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph.

Claim 30 stands rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because of the phrase "and/ or". Applicants' have amended claim 30 to remove this phrase and respectfully request that the objection to Claim 30 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph be removed and the claim allowed.

Claims 18-21 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 (b), second paragraph, as being anticipated by Joyner et al. USP 4,483,969. Applicants traverse. Applicants have amended claims 18, 19 and 20 to clearly distinguish the invention over the prior art. In light of these amendments, Applicants respectfully request that the objections based on Joyner be removed and the claims allowed.

Claims 18-21 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 (a), as being obvious from Joyner et al. USP 4,483,969. Applicants traverse. Applicants have amended claims 18, 19 and 20 to clearly distinguish the invention over the prior art. In light of these amendments, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claims 18-21 under 35 USC §103 (a), as being obvious from Joyner, be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 18-34 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 (b), second paragraph, as being anticipated by Miracle et al. USP 5,576,282. Applicants traverse. Applicants have amended claims 18, 19 and 20 to clearly distinguish the invention over the prior art. In light of these amendments, Applicants respectfully request that the Objections based on Miracle be removed and the claims allowed.

Claims 18-21 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 (a), as being obvious from Miracle et al. USP 5,576,282. Applicants traverse. Applicants have amended claims 18,

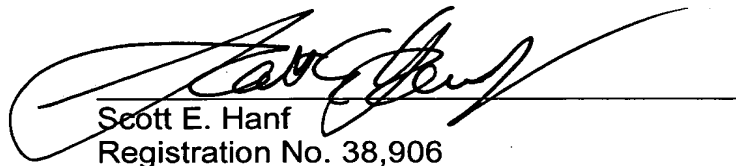
19 and 20 to clearly distinguish the invention over the prior art. In light of these amendments, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claims 18-21 under 35 USC §103 (a), as being obvious from Joyner, be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

As the total number of claims does not exceed the number of claims originally paid for, no fee is believed due. However if an additional fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any fee deficiency to Deposit Account No. 03-2060.

Applicants have filed an IDS with this amendment and respectfully request that the art cited be considered by the office.

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested. The claims are fully supported by the specification.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott E. Hanf  
Registration No. 38,906

**(CUSTOMER NUMBER 25,255)**

Clariant Corporation  
Industrial Property Department  
4000 Monroe Road  
Charlotte, NC 28205  
Phone 704 331-7140  
Fax 704 331-7707